

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 268803

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268803

CINCPAC PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB COM

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS CANBERRA 7955 ACTION

SECSTATE 06 DECEMBER 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PINT

SUBJECT: SCANDAL HITS WHITLAM MINISTRY

1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS ANNOUNCED INTENT APPOINT MISS JUNI MOROSI AS HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY HAS PRECIPITATED A POLITICAL UPROAR IN AUSTRALIA. THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY BELIEVES THAT IT MAY RESULT IN SENATOR MURPHY'S RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THAT IT HAS WEAKENED THE ALP'S CLAIM THAT IT IS A PARTY OF PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. MISS JUNI MOROSI'S PROJECTED APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS' PRIVATE SECRETARY PROVOKED HEATED PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, NEGATIVE EDITORIALS AND SENSATIONAL PRESS STORIES. PRESS AND OPPOSITION POLITICIANS CLAIM THAT MISS MOROSI HAD FEW PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR HER PROPOSED NEW POSITION WHICH WOULD HAVE PAID A-\$12,500 A YEAR.

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PAGE 02 STATE 268803

3. THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING HER APPOINTMENT WAS COM-
POUNDED BY THE FACT THAT SHE HAS CLOSE PERSONAL TIES T
ATTORNEY GENERAL SENATOR MURPHY'S WIFE. SENATOR MURPHY
ADDED TO HIS PROBLEMS BY WRITING A LETTER TO THE MINISTER
FOR THE CAPIAL TERRITORY, IN WHICH HE ASKED THAT MISS MOROSI,
"A MOST ENGAGING NEW EMPLOYEE" BE GIVEN A LOW COST
GOVERNMENT FLAT TO WHICH SHE HAD NO IMMEDIATE ENTITLEMENT. A
COPY OF THIS LETTER FELL INTO THE HANDS OF A LIBERAL
MP. THE PRESS CLAIMS THERE IS SEVEN YEAR WAITING LIST
FOR SUCH FLATS.

4. MURPHY WAS FURTHER DAMAGED WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THAT
HE HAD APPOINTED MISS MOROSI'S HUSBAND, MR. DAVID DITCHBURN,
TO THE AUSTRALIAN FILM BOARD AT A SALARY OF A\$1,000; THIS
POSITION ENTAILS ATTENDING SOME TEN MEETINGS A YEAR.
WHEN QUERIED ABOUT MR. DITCHBURN'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS
JOB THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FILM BOARD SAID THAT HE WAS A CUL-
TURED GENTLEMAN WHO HAD SEEN A LOT OF FILMS.

5. MORE FUEL WAS ADDED TO THE FIRE WHEN IT WAS REVEALED
THAT MISS MOROSI AND HER PRESENT HUSBAND WERE INVOLVED IN TWO
BUSINESS DEALS WHICH HAVE GONE BANKRUPT AND ARE UNDER IN-
VESTIGATION BY THE NEW SOUTH WALES COPORATE AFFAIRS
COMMISSION.

6. MISS MOROSI IS A STRIKING 41 YEAR OLD WOMAN WHOSE ALLEGED
LIAISON WITH DR. CAIRNS HAS STIRRED SPEC-
ULATION IN THE CANBERRA GOSSIP MILL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

7. THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THESE STORIES, CHARGES AND COUNTER
CHARGES IS THAT OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, THE PRESS AND MORAL-
ISTS OF ALL STRIPES HAVE HAD A FIELD DAY. TODAY'S PRESS CARRIES
REPORTS THAT SENATOR MURPHY WITH MISS MOROSI'S ASSISTANCE
IRREGULARLY SECURED IMMIGRATION PERMITS FOR HIS FILIPINO MAID AND
HER TWO ADULT DAUGHTERS. PRESS REPORTS ALSO CLAIM THAT MISS MOROSI
HAS BEEN CARRIED IMPROPERLY ON VIP AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS AND BEEN
ALLOWED THE IMPROPER USE OF COMMONWEALTH CARS.

8. THIS AFFAIR HAS SHAKEN THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE
AS A GOVERNMENT OF PRINCIPLE. WHILE IT MAY DAMAGE
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PAGE 03 STATE 268803

DR. CAIRNS' REPUTATION. ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY MAY
BE THE MAIN POLITICAL LOSER. HIS LETTER RE-
QUESTING A FLAT FOR MISS MOROSI, HIS APPOINTMENT OF HER
HUSBAND TO THE FILM BOARD, HIS LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE COUPLE, AND THE ASSERTED CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
IMMIGRATION INTO AUSTRALIA OF HIS FILIPINO MAID ARE ALL POTENTIAL
COUNTS AGAINST HIM. MOREOVER, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WILL BE IN RECESS NEXT WEEK WHILE THE SENATE WILL BE IN

SESSION. JOURNALISTS ASSURE US THAT OPPOSITION
SENATORS HAVE BEEN PRIMED WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR
SENATOR MURPHY RELATING TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH MISS MOROSI
WHICH THE PRESS HAS HERETOFORE BEEN UNABLE TO PRINT BECAUSE
OF AUSTRALIA'S STRICT LIBEL LAWS. IF THE QUESTIONS ARE
ASKED IN THE SENATE THE PRESS MAY PRINT THEM. THE
OPPOSITION'S OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO FORCE A GOVERN-
MENT BACKED INQUIRY INTO THE MOROSI APPOINTMENT; BUT ITS REAL
GOAL WOULD BE FORCE SENATOR MURPHY TO RESIGN AS ATTORNEY GENERAL
SIMPSON

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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